## THE FINAL SUMMONS COMES.

Ex-Secretary Manning Passes Peacefully Away at His Albany Home.

A LIFE OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS.

From Errand Boy to Proprietor-His Brilliant Career on the "Argus"-President - Cleveland's Condolence-Marks of Respect.

Passed Away Quietly.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 24.-Mr. Manning seemed to rally and brighten considerably this morning, to the surprise of his family His son, who had been watching at his bedside without rest almost, went out for a short walk for fresh air. He returned in a few minutes and found that his father was breathing faster and with shorter breaths. No mark of death was on his countenance, and though Mr. Manning had repeatedly requested his family not to witness his passing away, it was deemed best to summon the household, and in the presence of his family at 1:34 this after noon, be quietly and gently ceased to breathe The funeral will take place Tuesday, De-

cember 27, at 2 p. m., from St. Paul's Episcopal church. All through the late afternoon and evening

telegrams expressing sorrow and bereave-ment were received by Mrs. Manning and Mr. James H. Manning. Many notes of con-dolence from Albany and the state officers were also received. Among the senders of messages were Governor Hill, Samuel J messages were Governor Hill, Sa Randall, Colonel Lamont and others.

[Daniel F. Manning was born in Albany in 1831. His father died a few years after his birth, leaving his widow, son and daughter unprovided for. When nine years of age Dan began to earn his own living as an er-rand boy in the Argus office, and it was there that he acquired all his education and experience. Mr. William J. Cassidy, the owner of the Argus, was not slow in discovering the peculiar talents of his errand boy, and made him a reporter before he was fifteen years old. Mr. Manning acquired in this position an extensive acquaintance with tion an extensive acquaintance with public men, as the Argus office was then the readquarters of the northwestern democracy and he soon became initiated in the mysteries of political wire-pulling. All through the war he reported the proceedings of the New York Senate, and also all political conven-tions of importance held in the state of New York. Being thrifty and economical, he managed not only to support his mother and sister, but also to acquire a little competency so that he could become a shareholder in the Argus company when Mr. Cassidy, at the time of the close of the war, consolidated his paper with the Atlas and turned his business into a stock company, Mr. Manning then became city editor of the Argus and a promi-

nent figure in local politics.
At the death of Mr. Cassidy, in 1871, Mr.
Manning became the manager of the Argus
company, and improved its business facilities in a skillful manner. He also took an active part in the management of the Commercial National bank, making it the financial department of the political machine that ruled the state of New York. In 1876 Mr. Manning became a member of the democratic state central committee, in which the was considered as authorized to ak for Mr. Tilden. Becoming chairman that body in 1882 he espoused the cause of Cleveland with great vigor, although strongly opposed to the latter's nomination at first. Together with Lamont and Apgar, both trusted lieutenants of Tilden, he formed Cleveland's political counsel and practically controlled the patronage.

controlled the patronage.

Born a Catholic, Mr. Manning drifted into the Episcopal church, of which his first wife was a member, and both of his sons belong to this denomination. His daughter, however, has remained a Catholic. His first wife died about four years ago, and in 1885 he married Miss Fryer, the only daughter of an Albany dry good prince, a lady of forty-two years. Mr. Manning never held an elective office and good prince, a lady or lorgy with office, and Manning never held an elective office, and was never credited with ambitions in that direction. He was always a man of striking appearance and had much power as an orator. Since his illness his wife has ueen devoted to him, rarely leaving his bedside.

Mr. Manning's restricts

the treasury was sent to the president in the summer of 1886, it being accepted February 14, 1887, when it was found he could never thoroughly recover. He failed to derive any great benefit from a trip to Europe las

Flags at Half Mast.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The president is sued the following order this afternoon: "To all the departments:-The president has directed that the flags on all public buildings in the city of Washington be placed at half mast as a mark of respect to the memory of Daniel Manning, late secretary of the treas-

He also sent the following to Mrs. Manning, at Albany, N. Y.: "Though in this hour of unutterable grief your sorrow is too sacred to be shared, and too deep to be reached by earthly comfort, may I express to you my sincere and tender sympathy, saddened by my own affliction at the loss of a true and trusted friend and loyal associate who but lately stood at my side in the discharge, with patriotic zeal, of a solemn public duty.

Treasury Building Draped in Mourning WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Secretary Fair child issued this afternoon an order referring to the death of ex-Secretary Manning and ordering that, as a mark of respect, the treasury department building be draped in mourning for ten days, that it be closed on the day of the funeral and that on that day the national flag be displayed at half mast or all public buildings of the treasury depart ment and throughout the United States. It is expected that President Cleveland, Secr tary Fairchild and several other members of the cabinet will go to Albany to attend the funeral. The customary new year's recep-tion at the white house will be held as usual.

A 2 Per Cent Compromise.

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—The creditors William Dresbach and John Rosenfeld, leaders of the bull ring in the wheat deal which collapsed a few months ago, to-day agreed to accept the terms of settlement proposed by the committee of the call board. The claims against Dresbach amount to \$7,200,000, and against Rosenfeld to \$2,000,000 By the settlement, as now effected, creditors will receive a trifle over 2 per cent of their claims.

The Death Record.

NEWBURG, N. Y., Dec. 24.-Mrs. Laura Walcott Rankin, widow of the late R. G. Rankin, died this morning. She was born at Litchfield, Conn. Her great grandfather was the first governor of Connecticut. Her grandfather was one of the signers of the declaration of independence. Her uncle was secre-tary of the treasury under Washington. Her father, Frederick Walcott, of Connecticut, occupied judiciai positions for forty years in his native state.

Bulls and Bears Declare a Truce. CHICAGO, Dec. 24 .- The board of trade adjourned over until Tuesday. There was no

market to-day. New York, Dec. 24 .- The lower part of the city to-day wore a holiday aspect. Most of the exchanges were closed all day. The produce and stock exchanges closed last night until Tuesday morning next.

Derailed By a Misplaced Switch. CLINTON JUNCTION, Wis., Dec. 24.—The morning passenger train on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway was derailed by a misplaced switch east of that village. Bagman Link and William Daily, an express messenger, were seriously injured.

A Hundred Pauper Turks.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24 .- Among the arrivals at Castle garden this afternoon, were over a hundred Turks. They came from Bordeaux and are filthy and destitute. The authorities at the garden have detained the Turks to await the action of the collector of the port.

Transferred to the Grand Trunk. TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 24.-It is announced that the transfer of the Northern and Northwestern railways to the Grand Trunk is practically completed.

ARMOUR AT DULUTH. The Great Packer to Make That City

His Northwestern Headquarters. DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 24.-[Special Tele gram to the BEE. |-It is a fact that Phil Armour has been for some time past contemplat ing Duluth as his next northwestern distributing point. Plans have been drawn by J. C. Pierce, of this city, for an eight-story refrigerator 80x175 feet to be erected on Railroad street. The plans embrace a new system of cooling, of which Pierce is the inventor and which has met with the approval of Armour. Work will begin early in the spring. Duluth will become the northwestern headquarters of Armour's traffic and for the Vermittion iron country. A smaller refrigerator will be erected at Tower. Work at the latter building begins next week. Its dimensions are to be 40x120 feet, two stories high, and the Pierce system will be utilized here also. The importance of this enterprise to Duluth can be well imagined when it is known that the entire northwest will be supplied from here and a special train of Armour's own cars will be employed constantly therein.

A Youthful Kleptomaniac. NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Dec. 24 .- [Special Telegram to the Bee.]-Nebraska City has just developed a most accomplished and suc cessful child thief in Christine Stang, ten years old, daughter of a laborer on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy bridge. She was detected by her teacher in the public school after she had made Christmas presents to nearly every scholar in school, consisting of almost every kind of article kept in dry goods and notions stores, from a row of pius and jack-knives to line shawls and dress goods in all amounting to nearly enough to stock a small store. A dozen different firms were represented in her collection yet none missed the goods or suspicioned the youthful thief until she was forced into a confession and most of the goods returned by the father who paid the damages. It is understood the girl will not be prosecuted. When threatened with imprisonment she was willing to go if she would be let out for Christmas.

A Racy Scandal Suit at Wahoo. WAROO, Neb. Dec. 24.- [Special to the BEE.]-The big slander case of Dr. Pelton ngainst Mayor Dickinson for \$23,000, which grew out of their church difficulties two years ago, is now on trial in the district court. The prominence of the parties and the racy character of the charges makes the case intensely interesting to large crowds of spectators. The standerous utterances, which the plantiff charges the defendant to have made, are: charges the defendant to have made, are:
"Dr. Pelton is guilty of all the graver crimes
in the calender." "He was shot in a house of
ill-fame." "He lived in a state of adultery
with his present wife for several years before
they were married. "Dr. Pelton alleges that
Mayor Dickinson accused him of having been
shot while in a very compromising situation
with a domestic and of being the author of with a domestic and of being the author of several charges of a like character. The case will not reach the jury before Saturday

night. The Ph. Best Brewing company, of Mil waukee, has purchased a site near the Frea-mont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley depot and have broken ground for the erection of a large building. They propose to make Walloo a distributing point for their cele-

brated Milwaukee beer. The waterworks company have completed their building on the outside and are now placing the large boiler and pumps in posi-tion. They have laid considerable service pipe and will be ready to turn on the water the first of 1888.

A River Improvement Convention. Dubuque, Ia., Dec. 24.—[Special Telegram to the BEE. |-A call has been issued by the Dubuque board of trade and the mayor of this city for a convention to be held here on the 17th of January to further the interests of the upper Mississippi river by making such improvements as will make it more navigable for steamboats and other craft. It is expected that all the river cities between St. Louis and St. Paul will be represented at the convention. A memorial will be prepared calling the attention of congress to the pro-

ject and asking for an appropriation. Accidentally Shot.

FULLERTON, Neb., Dec. 24 .- [Special to the BEE.]-John McClure, an eighteen year-old boy, was severely shot by accident here yesterday. McClure, accompanied by another young man, was hunting and in going down a steep declivity McClure fell, discharging the entire contents of his shot gun into his face. wound is serious but not necessarily

fatal. Cabled a Christmas Greeting. Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 24.—Patrick Egan cabled to-night a Christmas greeting to Lord

Mr. Mandeville, at present in Tullamore jail,

Mayor Sullivan, Hon, William O'Brien and

The Nicaraugua Canal. GRENADA, Nicaraugua, Dec. 24.-The steamer Hondo, having on board the Nicaraugua Canal Construction company's surveying expedition, arrived at Greytown on Friday, the 9th inst. The governor of Greytown and a committee appointed by the president extended a cordial welcome, but it s impossible to obtain particulars in time for

wiring to-night. Will Leave It to the Courts.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.-At a conference between the attorneys representing Chicago and the recently annexed portion of Hyde Park village, it was agreed to carry the disputed points to the Illinois supreme court.

Postal Notes.

Washington, Dec. 24.- [Special Telegram to the BES.]-George O. Ormsby was to-day appointed postmaster at Dwight, county, vice Henry Glover, resigned. Butler

New Proverbs of the Lime Kiln Club. "I hev bin axed seberal timeso' late," said Brother Gardnes as the meeting opened on the usual degree, "if dis club shouldn't increase its stock of proverbs an' maxims. De follerin' new ones hev bin handed in by de committee as as-

'Industry am de hook on which de poo' man hangs his coat when he goes

" 'When a man om too lazy to start a lawsuit his friends should gin him up " 'We should not be astonished at the

man who sells out fur a five-dollar bill He puts his own value on himself, an' he probably got it high 'nuff.' 'If I wanted to beat a man out of two dollars I should pay him back twen-

ty-five cents of borrowed money.'
"'You kin beat de world by flattery
twice as easy as you kin by chicanery.'
"'I think we will adopt de above, which will increase our total number to 500, an' any time a member hits upon anythin' good he kin hand it in. Dar' is sech a thing as hevin' too much of sunthin', but dat doan apply to proverbs

an' maxims. The Last Alpine Vulture.

London Times: According to the Swiss Journal of Ornithology, the Lammergeier, or Alpine vulture, may be regarded as extinct in Switzerland. solitary female specimen dwelt for the last twenty-five years on the Biotschhorn, in the upper Valais, and escaped countless attempts at capture. But a little time ago, when the severe weather set in, a poisoned fox was left below the cliff, and proved a successful trap, and the bird was jound dead.

The body was stuffed and placed in the museum at Lauennne; it measured across the wings two and one-half metres, or nearly eighty-eight and onehalf inches. Possibly one or two solitary specimens may still linger in re-mole eyries; but it is quite certain that a nest is not to be found any longer, so that this much dreaded species may be considered to have disappeared within the Swiss territory.

SENATOR SHERMAN'S POSITION

While Making no Active Canvass, He Has Not Withdrawn.

HIS FRIENDS NOW MORE ZEALOUS

Lamar's Confirmation - Indications That He May Meet With Strong Opposition From Bepublican Senators-Washington Personals.

Senator Sherman's Candidacy.

WASHINGTON BUREAU THE OMAHA BEE, ) 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24. Although hourly expected for several days he death of ex-Secretary Manning, when it finally came this afternoon, created a great

deal of comment and universal regret.

There were those who had hoped, and yet without hope, that Mr. Manning would pull through and live. Instead of merriment in Washington next week there will be much sadness, for Mr. Manning left official life with the respect of all who came in personal contact with him and the enmity of no one His ability was unquestioned, while socially he was a gentleman of culture, education and many fine instincts. The programme of holiday festivities at the White house and in official circles generally next week and on New Year's day, has been cancelled. The reception by President and Mrs. Cleveland and the ladies of the cabidet at the executive mansion and their private residences, will not be held. The president and all members of the cabinet are expected to attend the funeral, and there will be mourning in the places where a fortnight since good cheer was

CALLING ON SHERMAN.

anticipated to hold high carnival.

Senator Sherman has been visited by quite large number of his personal and political friends during the past twenty-four hours in reference to the story that he had refused to allow his name to be presented for the presidential nomination. The senator has become a little impatient with the various reports which have been sent out regarding what is being done to bring about his nomination. I have talked with him more than once of late in regard to his political future and have been assured by him that he was doing nothing and was not inviting his friends to push the question of his nomination. He deires especially that it should be known that he has at no time said anything against Mr. Blaine and that he has at no time discouraged those who are in favor of Mr. Blaine's re nomination. The story published broadcast vesterday that Senator Sherman intended to request a cessation of the use of his name as a presidential candidate has had the effect of being to him by wire and by mail and tongue many assurances of renewed support and enthusiasm, and it looks now as if the name of Sherman would be forged to the front more prominently than ever before. THE FIGHT AGAINST LAMAR.

The Bight Against Land.

The members of the senate committee on judiciary have been receiving, by almost very mail for two weeks, charges Lamar and petitions in opposition to his confirmation as an associate justice of the supreme court. A few days ago there was every prospect—that he would—be confirmed without drawing the partisan lines, but it looks now as if the republicans would not only hold a caucus and resolve to oppose the only hold a caucus and resolve to oppose the confirmation, but that there would be at least two democratic senators who would object to confirmation. It is said that William E. Chandler, who is now a senator, and who received many personal favors at the hands of Mr. Lamar when the latter was in the senate and the former's nomination as secretary of the navy was autagonized by some recryptionars will was antagonized by some republicans, will give the nomination of Mr. Lamar his best efforts. It is very probable, however, that Mr. Chandler will be called into caucus and will be bound by caucus obligations to stand with his party and therefore he will be held to vote against confirmation. Most of the charges against Mr. Lamar relate to his confederate records and his alleged incapacity, but there have been received charges affecting his social character that will cause him a good deal of concern, but they may not finally stand against him in senatorial action. When Mr. Lamar's nomination comes before the senate in socret session, a good deal of very bitter debate is expected, and it is probable that not a little feeling will be engendered. The matter is and is the principal topic commented upon.

PERSONAL.

This evening's Star says: "Miss Paddock, daughter of Senator Paddock, of Nebraska, accompanied by her cousin, Miss Grace Paddock, of New York, arrived in the city this afternoon, and will remain during the session. Mrs. Senator Paddock will be assisted in receiving during the winter by her niece. Mrs. William E. Annin, wife of Senator Paddock's private secretary. Mr. Annin has rented a house for the year at 1900

Sunderland place."
The committee of gentlemen who have charge of the fund to purchase and present a residence to the widow of the late General W. S. Hancock, expect that the amount necessary will be subscribed immediately. It is stated that \$15,000 has been subscribed in various amounts by the friends of the late general, and the committee hopes to secure the remainder required in time to pre-sent Mrs. Hancock with the house that has been selected for her during the holidays. At present Mrs. Hancock is the guest of Captrin Eugene Griffin, assistant to the engineer commissioner of the district, at his residence, No. 1640, Twenty-first street northwest.

Vilas' Paper Postage Bill. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The postmaster general has prepared a bill which will be in troduced in the house as soon as practicable after the reassembling of congress, materially differing from the present law relating to permissable writing or printing on wrappers of second, third and fourth class mail matter. The bill provides that the words "sample copies" and "marked copies" may be printed on the wrappers or enclosures of second class matter, and that in addition to the original print, written corrections of typographical errors may be enclosed. The bill also provides that any printing which is liable as third class matter may be placed upon wrappers of such matter, provided it is not in the nature of correspondence, and provided fur ther that sufficiently large space shall be left for the address. As to tourth class matter the bill allows the same advertisements to be printed on the wrapper as is permitted to be enclosed with the merchandise contained therein.

· Almost a Riot. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.-A riot was nar rowly averted at the navy yard yesterday and something serious might have occurred had not a disciplined and armed force been on the ground. At the close of the work in excavating for a new ordinance foundry the superintendent announced the names of sixty men whose services were no longer required This announcement was followed by an ex-citing scene, participated in by the discharge employes. They shouted out against such treatment, and threats of violence were made. The approach of an armed body of marines which had been summoned brought the disturbance to an end.

The Mrs. Hancock Fund.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The committee of gentlemen who have charge of the fund to purchase and present a residence to the vidow of the late General W. S. Hancock expect the amount necessary will be sub-scribed immediately. It is stated that \$15,000 has been subscribed in various amounts by hopes to seems the remainder required in time to present Mrs. Hancock with a house that will be selected during the holidays.

National Captol Notes. Washington, Dec. 24 .- All the executive departments of the government closed at

noon to-day, Reports to the navy department from the New York and Norfolk navy yards, where operations are making to build the great 5,000-ton armored war ships, are highly satisfactory. At New York keel docks for the armored cruiser have been placed, and the

ship is being laid down. The new buildings are nearly completed. Good progress has

also been made at Norfolk. The semi-annual examinations at the West Point military academy will begin on January 3, and last about two weeks. The fourth class is very large, numbering 127 cadets. The examination in this grade is very severe upon the students, who entered the academy th June last, and the indications are that about thirty will fail to pass and be dropped from the service.

Nebraska and lowa Pensions. Washington, Dec. 24 - Special Telegram to the Beg. ]-The following Nebraska pensions were issued to day: Increase George W. Goldsby, Barada; John Boddion, West Point; Jacob Weber, Paymee City. Reissue

Robert La Fontaine, Gurney.

Jowa pensions: Elizabeth, Mother of Al-

exander McClotchie, Manchester; minors of David J. Stump, Leon. Original—B. F. Chapman, Nicol:James Dadidson, Monticello. Increase—John Morris, Montezuma; Jeremiah M. Mallick, Carley; Ole A. Peterson, Osage; Jonathon Chauce, Zearing; Isaac N. Brown, Union. Reissue—Hiram T. M. Mc-Brown, Union. Re Cord, Marshaltown. The Weather To-Day.

followed by colder weather and light local snows: light to fresh variable winds.
For Dakota: Local snows, warmer, followed by colder weather, light to fresh variable winds. TERRORS OF AN OPERATOR.

Working in a Swamp Beseiged With

Wild Cats and Snakes.

For Iowa and Nebraska: Slightly warmer,

St. Louis Republican: "I some queer said Charles Elliott, an old-time railroad telegraph operator to a reporter, as he strolled into the rotunda of the Laclede. Charlie handled the key of a "paper machine" for years before sounders came into use, and has worked on nearly every railroad in the country, but like nearly all the nearly telegraphers, never cared to work for one company more than six months at a "I held down a little office on the Union Pacific one winter way up in the Rocky mountains, where, for three months, snow was piled up over the top of the depot, and to look either up of down the track, with the snow banks twelve or fifteen feet high on either side, made one shiver. But I had plenty of coal and plenty of books, and rather enjoyed it. At another time worked out in Arizona on the Atlantic and Pacific, where all I could see on either side of the depot was a sandy waste and a section house. But the worst snap I ever got into was about four years ago, and my railroad life ended with that job. I struck Kansas City about the last of June, hard up and out of work. I was ready to take anything that turned up; so, when the superintendent of the S. & M. told me he could give me an office down in Arkansas, I accepted with alacrity. He warned that it was not a pleasant location, but that didn't worry me a bit; that night I boarded a train armed with a pass, which read: 'Pass George Elliott, Kansas City, to the

Hatchie Coon, account Operator.' "The name looked rather lugubrious, and every conductor that handled that pass looked at me significantly and smiled sympathetically, but I did at feel uneasy. Along in the afternoon I passed Mammoth Spring and Ravenon. What a delightful country this is for fishing and hunting! I thought. 'I'll have a glorious time in these woods!' But after I passed Hoxie the hills and clear streams disappeared, and on either side of the track appeared dense forests of gum and cypress. The ground was perfectly level, and little pools of stagnant water numerous. As I went on toward my destination the gloominess increased, and in spite of myself I commenced getting blue. About 5 o'clock in the afternoon the train ed, the fiendish brakeman entered and yelled 'Hatchie Coon' with a sickly grin. I collared my valise and got off. It was raining one of those nasty, sticky rains that are disagreeable anywhere but standing all aione on that railroad dump with water stretching out on both sides of the track as far as I could through the dense forest, and with the great dark cypress treos hang over me. it was simply awful. Down the track one hundred yards or so I saw a little tent, the only evidence of the existence of humanity besides the railroad in this wilderness. I walked down and found this was the telegraph office over which I was to preside. The operator whom I was to relieve, met me and escorted me inside ne and escorted me inside The only furniture was an old, dirty

canvas cot, a broken-down chair and little table, which held the instruments. sat down on the cot and absolutely wept in my loneliness and the sense of utter desolation. To brighten me up. the operator, after he had reported the train, told me stories of the pleasan features of the place, of the mammoth mosquitoes, of the bears that nosed around the neighborhood, the maniacal cries of the wildcat which could be heard in the evening and the friendly fnakes which crawled up into the tent sor companionship. He was going away and was happy. We would catch the and was happy. next freight train and go to supper. Where did we eat? Oh, just up road nine or ten miles, at Big Bay. There was a section house there. The train came along. It was minus a caboose, so I had to ride on top of a box car through that infernal rain for two hours, for freight trains have to walk along there. Big Bay was a town. had a grocery store and a sawmill besides the section-house. The supper consisted of soggy potatoes fried in oceans of fat, corn bread heavier than oceans of fat, corn bread heavier than lead, molasses and coffee. There was no such thing as butter and we sweet ened the coffee with molasses. The landlady was fat and greasy and dirty. differing in the first particular from the other inhabitants. This section bos was long and sandy and thin, with the vellow complexion so popular in the neighborhood. His subordinates were ditto. The flies were awful. The table was placed on either side to accommodate the boarders. The tablecloth was of oilcloth, and had evidently served in that capacity without being cleansed for an indefinite period. Before I had finished my supper I caught sight of the French cook in the kitchen. I got up, went out and sat on the end of a tie and meditated. The section man came out and sat on the rail and told stories of track-walkers who had been eaten by panthers in that vicinity, while the owls and the bullfrogs chanted a doleful accompaniment There was an operator at Big Bay. He occupied a 6x9 shanty that had been originally intended for a hand car and tool house. This was our sleeping room. The next morning, after a hreakfast which embodied the same menu as the supper, I saught a freight train and rode down to Hatchie Coon. The tent which formed my office was set on a platform of rough planks, upheld by oiles driven into the swamp. The only dry land was the railroad dump. dark even when the sun was and all through the day the deep, gut-teral grunts of the bullfrogs added to the lonesomeness. I found the instruments literally covered with mos-quitoes, attracted by the bright metal. They were a size and ferocity hitherto

unknown to me, and it was only by con-

tinuous exertions that I could keep them away from me. Down in the

swamps, underneath and around the

tent, I could see numerous snakes."

A TIE-UP ON THE READING.

The Convention of Employes Decides on a General Strike.

PASSENGER MEN EXCEPTED.

Nearly Sixty Thousand Laborers Will Be Idle - Prospect of Further Complications. The Company's Side of the Case.

Sixty Thousand Men Ordered Out. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.-A convention of the Reading road employes assembled here this evening and ordered on a strike every body in the employ of the company with the exception of passenger train employes. The order to strike includes coal miners in the employ of the Reading company, and will effect nearly 60,000 men.

About seventy-five delegates were in at tendance representing every branch of the road from coal handlers to miners, and in cluding all classes of trainmen. Committees from Port Richmond and Elizabethport presented their grievances to the convention, The representatives from Elizabethport stated that the Knights there were dis charged for refusing to load Coxe Bros'. barge. They had understood that the Read ing company was not to interfere in the Lehigh strike, but to load Coxe Bros', barge would be aiding the Lehigh operators, and this the men refused to do, while many Schuylkill barges were lying idle. They stated that 150 men had been discharged, the officials refusing to settle the matter by arbitration. A similar complaint of refusal on the part of officials to arbitrate was presented by the Port Richmond representatives. The convention then went into executive session and upon its conclusion announced that there would be a gen eral tie-up of all mines and all freight and coal trains on the road. It was stated further that passenger men would also be ordered out soon if it should be found neces-

The convention adopted resolutions censur ing the company for violating an article of agreement a year ago which specified that every man employed by the company shall receive fair and just investigation of any grievance or complaint entered against him before he shall be discharged or suspended. The convention will resume its session to morrow to hear complaints and direct the

general plan of resistance.
General Manager McLeods said to-night that the question involved was not one of wages, but whether the company should manage its own affairs, or whether they should be managed by its employes. He had been forbearing at all times, he said, grant-ing requests which were absolutely unrea-sonable, with the sole purpose of preventing a sale of the property under foreclosure, and a disintegation of the whole system. The situation of the property now, the general manager said, is different. The property is about to pass again under control of its owners, and as a reorganization is assured, the company has determined to enforce disci pline, no matter at what cost.

Another Strike Threatened. POTTSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 24.—A joint commit

tee of Knights of Labor and the Miners Amalgamated association conferred with General Manager Whiting to-day in reference to the miners' wages for the coming year. It is understood the committee insisted upon the rate at which the men are now working. It is not anticipated that the demand of the men will be conceded, and in that eveet a general strike will probably fol-

The Situation at Reading.

READING. Pa., Dec. 24.—Thousands of cars oaded with coal are now standing on the sidings north and south of Reading, where trains have been run and fires drawn from he engines Hundreds of applications wer received to-day from men anxious to go to Port Richmond and take the positions of the strikers. The first contingent of fifty was to-night. Freight traffic is also at a

standstill. All Quiet at Port Richmond. PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 24.-All is quie at the Port Richmond coal wharves this morning. The strikers are orderly. Superintendent of Police Lamon has issued orders to police lieutenants to keep the entire force nouses until further orders.

Mrs. Crandall Convalescing. TROY, N. Y., Dec. 24.-The condition Mrs. Julia Crandall, who was shot by her husband at Balston, Monday last, is unchanged, although the prospects for her re-

covery improve every day. THERE'S A MARKET FOR IRON. It is Wanted For Other Purposes That

to Build Railroads With. New York Sun: The iron trade has been long regarded as a barometer of the market. Iron enters so largely into domestic and industrial service, gives employment to so many men, and draws so largelp upon subsidiary industries in its process of manufacture and distribu tion that it has come to be looked upor as something of a financial king, to whom all other forces in finance and in dustry are tributary. It is a chief factor in the cost of railroads, it contributes largely to the building industry, it is taking possession of the sea, and in the kitchen it is about equally necessary with the cook. All the features of mod ern civilization, except its virtues, are

becoming iron-clad. But if it be true that the iron trade i a ruler of the market, we are not in every respect quite so prosperous as we were a few months ago. Steel rails, which only recently sold at \$40 per ton, are now selling for \$32—a rather startling decline to take place in a single season. Still, the iron manufacturers talk hopefully. There is profit, they say, in the manufacture of steel rails at \$32 per ton, some of the manufacturers most favorably located having reduced the cost of production to no more than \$22 per ton, while the least favored can produce at a cost only \$2 or \$3 higher But others again say wages are paid on a standard of \$40 per ton; and, if this be true, it will be hard to reconcile it with the first statement. But it is to be observed that even those who make the latter claim speak also with a confi dence that would certainly be a little misplaced were it quite true that wages are paid on a \$40 per ton basis. sometimes a little hard to reconcile conflicting views.

The reasons given for the decline in the price of steel rails should be thought satisfactory. At the beginning of the year it was estimated that there would about 12,000 miles of new railway built in the United States before the close of the current December, and all Cansactions were founded on this estimate. But we know now that the number of miles constructed will fall very much below 12,000; and the the estimate for next year do not rise above 7,000 miles. The demoralization in the stock market is the cause of this sudden check The new roads have not been able to place their bonds so readily as their promoters anticipated. They were build ing upon a stock boom which not only did not come, but which found a substi-tute in a stock depression. The year closes, therefore, with great expecta-

tions unrealized. There is a lesson to be learned from the situation, which thoughtful men are not slow in learning. It is not so much to the iron industry that we must look when we wish to estimate the coming

volume of trade and the probable course of prices as to the industry of railroad building, equipment and repair. The latter is the chief industrial interest on this developing continent, and it is likely to remain chief for many years to come. But the railroads are earning only 4 or 5 per cent. Thus say the financial philosophers, and they sry, too, that this is enough. But the men who are asked to put their money in railway securities, seem, nevertheless, to be dis-satisfied with such returns, and show an inclination to try something else. It will take a world of booming to keep 4 or 5 per cent securities at par when better gleanings can be found in other

But the railways are not the only hope

of the iron trade, and so it still remains measurably prosperous while its chief customer continues poor. The government has recently gone into the facture of cannons and ships, add soon, possibly, it will turn its attention to iron-clad forts and batteries. But it is not held that this enterprise can ma-terially effect the market further, perhaps, than to help steady the price for pig iron. Such an entirely new plant is demanded for all government work that were we to construct a navy equal in size to half the navies of the world. it would have no appreciable influence on existing establishments. But there is still another and very wide field already open. The quantity of iron used in architectural work is very large, and he quantity used in constructive parts of such work is rapid! growing. There are about thirty firms of agricultural and manufacturers in the city of New York alone, and such firms are scattered all over the country in all the large cities. They construct everything from a complete house to a door post or lintel. A few years ago iron fronts for business places became quite the fashion,

and at one time they seemed destined to supplant all other material for this particular service. Their advantages for warehouses or factories demanding light were very great. The strength of the material permitted the construction of buildings that were substantially glass houses, and it soon became very popular. The partiality of the late A. . Stewart for iron buildings is attested by the two monuments to his memoryone erected on Broadway, and other on Park avenue, the great dry goods warehouse and the hotel. But it was the misfortune of the first efforts at constructing iron building that the very excellence of the material proved, temporarily at least, the cause of its down-fall. The strength of the iron enabled the architect to compose his exteriors almost exclusively of apertures, and there are architectural traditions which demand a certain breadth of wall between apertures to gratify the sense of proportion. In the struggle for more light these traditions were disregarded wit the result that men soon began to weary of structures which violated their artistic sense, and they finally went back to the different kinds of material that have been consecrated by the ages. Not that iron fronts and entire iron buildings are no longer constructed. A walk along Broadway will soon satisfy any person that the taste for such structures still prevails; and on Riverside drive an iron dwelling is under construction which is expected to demonstrate that the material is not necessarily at war with proportion, and has been more sinned against than sinning. But that will not disprove claim that iron is just now under a cloud, and has failed to realize the expectations that were raised in its behalf when it was first introduced as a material for exterior walls.

Yet the natural advantages of iron are still manifest. It is susceptible of being rolled into plates of any desired size, as well as being east into columns and other decorative forms. The re, therefore, that an iron building is disproportioned is not necessarily true. It need not differ in its propotions from a building of brick or marble. The windows may have just the ponderance to which they are entitled and no more, and the columns, capitals and entablature may rise to the degree of massiveness that satisfies the eye But this would be humbug, says the architect. The standards of propor-

tion, and the architectural character of the decoration acceptable to taste, have grown from the necessities of material used. The columns of a Greek portico were so many feet in thickness because such a body of stone were necessary to support the pediment; and the wall will have such or suce a breadth between the windows because it is demanded in support of its upper layers and the roof. iron colum larger than an apple tree will have no cause for being in any conceivable case, and an iron lintel, or arch placed over a win dow opening through an iron wall would represent an unprinci-pled piece of fiction. These seem like valid objections to iron as a building material, but they are somewhat strained. It is the structure rather than the decorative features of architecture that have grown from necessity At all events, they bear against wood with almost equal force, and no one ever objected to wood as a proper materia to use in the constructin of buildings. For the rest iron is probably the most durable material to be found in the world, and it is always new. At the end of an incalculable cycle of time a fresh coat of a paint would always renler an iron building as attractive as

But it would not be safe to make any prediction in reference to the future of iron as a building material. It is easy to see, however, that much of its former popularity will return when iron buildings are constructed with a greater sense of architectural merit. The Park hotel on Park avenue shows something of the capability of the material for a building of grand proportions, and it seems to be admirably well adapted for cottage designs of the better class on account of the facility with which it may be worked into forms of delicate tracery. Of course it would be followed into the suburbs by the charge that it is an imitator of its betters, and that it only afffects to need certain features that belong to brick and stone when it is stiff enough to stand alone. But it will be also hard enough to stand against any aspersion that can be thrown against it after the builders have learned to make it artistically attractive.

There can be no doubt that fron has entered the architectural field to stay. and to grow up with the country. has already displaced wooden beams in all buildings that make any pretensions to being fireproof, and its utility for stairs, column to support cross beams, and other interior fittings is beyond question. It is slow of combustion. It is capable of being a very lively contributor at a midnight carnival of the fire fiend, but it enters into this sort of entertainment reluctantly, and is therefore thought more trustworthy than

McNeally Turned Loose.

SACO, Me., Dec. 24 .- A telegram was re ceived from Halifax last evening stating that the authorities could not lawfully hold young McNeally, who rebbed the Saco bank, any longer and had released him from custody. They failed to find any of the bank property on him. One of the bank trustees said: "He is just as safe in Halifax as he was in Liver-pool. He cannot be extradited on any charge

## TALKS ON WESTERN SPORTS.

A Bad Turn in Pugilistic Affairs in St. Paul.

TOMMY MILLER AND THE SPIDER.

The Former Cautioned Not to Talk Too Much-Gossip About Other Fights-A Talk With Seele.

Pugs in the Northwest.

St. PAUL, Dec. 24 .- [Correspondence of the BEE. |-While everybody seems to be closely watching events across the briny, pugilistic matters seem to have taken a bad turn in the northwest. As I foreshadowed in my last letter, the forfeit money for the finish fight between Tommy Warren and Patsy O'Leary has been withdrawn, but the rest of the scheme miscarried. Instead of reposting it as a forfeit for a fight between O'Leary and the Spider, the backers of the two men quietly put it in their pockets, and as a result both fights are off. I was sorry to see this matter turn out in this way, as I always have had an idea that O'Leary is a better man than Warren, and I would have liked very much to have seen a fight between the two, as it would have been sure to have been a good one. O'Leary left for the east Wednesday feeling very sore. He said he would never have consented to have the stakes drawn had he not been assured that they would be immediately reposted for his fight with Weir. As it is O'Leary has been doing nothing except training for the past month, and he can't be blamed much for feel-

ing sore.
And now, following the announcement that the feather-weights will not battle comes the statement from Harry Gilmore that his match with Charlie Gleason is off. It will be remembered that on the night of the Clow-Glover fight at Minneapolis, Gleason from the ring challenged any 187-pound man in the United States for a fight to a finish for from \$250 to \$1,000. This challenge was im-mediately accepted on behalf of Gilmore. Several Minneapolis sports made up a purse of \$250, and all the arrangements were made for the meeting to take place in private in that city last Wednesday. But Gilmore refused to fight. He says, in explanation of his course, that as he has concluded to make Minneapolis his home, he does not want to lay himself liable to arrest. He says when he signed the articles for the fight, that it was understood that the mill would be strictly quiet, with only those present who had made up the purse. Gilmore says that in-stead of being kept quiet by the stead of being kept quiet by the other side, the date and place of the fight was known even by the boot-blacks, and thus an

other puglistic event is off.
Until Paddy Norton made Gleason quit in a few rounds at Duluth recently, he was very well thought of in this city. He is quick as lightning, hits hard, and is an exceedingly ciever boxer, but it is said he lacks one great essential to a good fighter—sand. At any rate, Norton did not have him whipped, but he simply refused to fight any more after Paddy had landed a good stiff blow on h.s head. If he is a quitter, he has got no busi-ness with Gilmore, for the latter is one of the very eleverest men in the business, besides being one of the pluckiest.

Gilmore is at least going to have another go with Billy Myer, of Streator, Ill., for which he has been pining ever since his recent defeat. Gilmore still maintains that it was a chance blow with which Myer knocked him out, and promises his friends he will not be disposee of so easily this time. I myself think that Gilmore will win the coming fight, which is to occur on the 20th of January, but where I am unable to state.

Ike Weir, the Belfast spider, has gone to Boston to get his wife and bring her out west, as he intends to remain in these parts until he has taken the conceit out of some of the ambitious feather-weights out this way. His next fight is with Tommy Miller of your city on the 11th of next month, and the Gmaha best men for his size of seeing one of the best men for his size in the world. I see Tommy is telling the Omaha people how he will just "kill" the Spider in no time. War-ren was going to do the same thing before they got together, but, although I have never seen Miller in the ring, I would advise to profit by Warren's example and not talk too much.

Among the heavy-weights the past week has been comparatively quiet, week has been comparatively quiet, although a match between Patsy Car-diff and Paddy Ryan has been made, and the articles signed by the former and sent on to San Francisco for the latter's autograph. These two "big ones" ought to make a good fight, and will if the thing is on the square. There is no denying the fact that Cardiff is a pretty clever man with his fists, and his creat generalship in the ring has won him

Pat Killen has expressed a desire to meet Jake Kilrain or Jem Smith or some of the other big fellows, but it is doubtful if he will have his wish gratified, and Pat will have to content himself by continuing to knock out all the ambitious "suckers" that show up in the northwest. I may be laughed at for making the statement, but I consider Kilrain one of the very best men in the country to-day.

BASE BALL GOSSIP.

I met Frank Seele, the genial manager of the Omaha base ball club, at the Merchants' hotel yesterday, and had quite a talk with him on base ball matters. I asked him if he thought Milwaukee would jump into the American association to fill the vacancy in that organization, and he said he did not. Jim Hart, the Milwaukee manager, he said, was too sharp for that. Milwaukee, with a team well up in the race for the pennant, is a money-making town, which it would surely have if it entered the association, and it will lose money, and lots of it, as it did in the Northwestern league in 1885, when its team was playing a losing game. Mr. Seele said his team for next year was complete, with the exception of one first-class pitcher, and he will have none but a first-class man.

Here is a little item that will interest Omaha base ball cranks. It is taken from a letter on curious incidents happening in ball games during the past season by the veteran base ball writer, Chadwirk: "A curious inbase ball writer, Chadwirk: A Curous in-cident happened in the contest of May 16 at Bridgeport, Conn., between the Bridgeport and Danbury teams. It is a rule of the game that any ball hit from the bat can be legally caught, provided it is not caught on a rebound from the ground, and any object other than the person of a fielder. But if it is caught after rebounding from the hands or the person of any fielder engaged in the game the catch is a legitimate one. question a high ball was batted to the field and both Loyett and Wilson ran to catch it. The ball as it fell first struck Wilson's hands, and, singular to relate, after he had three times failed to hold it securely, as it rebounded from his hands it went Lovett, who was standing close by ready to assist in the catch. Lovett similarly failed to hold the ball security, but on the second rebound from his hands Wilson grasped at it again, and this time the catch was made, after five distinct failures to make the catch before the ball could reach the ground." ON LOOKER.

Bardin and Kennedy Matched. Messrs. Hardin and Kennedy have signed articles for a live bird shoot for \$50 a side to take place on Tuesday or Wednesday next, Hardin to shoot at twenty-five birds and Kennedy at twenty-six.

Discriminating Against the Farmers. OAKLAND, Neb., Dec. 24 .- [Special to the BEE. ]-Complaint was made to-day to the state board of transportation against the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaba railroad by the Farmers' union of this place for \$300 damages on account of discrimination. The Union has been refused cars several times where the elevator men were not. Yesterday and day before they were refused Yesterday and day before they were refused by the agent, on the ground that he had orders from the superintendent to relieve the elevator men first. The Union saw this order to the agent, and immediately made a complaint. They turned away 10,000 bushels of corn on Thursday, because they could not get cars. The Union has been shipping from three to six cars of corn per day, and the price paid for the grain has been more than that offered in any of the surrounding towns. The Union is very indignant over the discrimination, just now, when so much corn is coming in, and they propose to see whether the railroad can so discriminate.